

1st John #07

“Lifted or Pruned means Results”

John 15:1-2

Just as sap is the life blood of the plant or tree, biblical truth is the spiritual life providing substance for the believer.

There are a lot of wonderful ways a believer can depart from this life and the sin unto death isn't one of them.

Four causes of death for the believer:

1) **Our work on earth is finished 2nd Tim 4:7**

2) **To glorify God in an unusual way Phil 1:20-21**

3) ***Maximum discipline for rebellion or the sin unto death in disgrace 1st Chron 10:13; 1st John 5:16***

4) **Suicide**

Recovery prevents scar tissue from accumulating on the soul, while inhale of biblical truth and exhale of faith and confidence in God removes it or places it in remission.

God will not live with human good in eternity; He can't stand it in time or eternity.

Human good is not the same as morality which is good and necessary for function and continuation of the human race, while human good is un-necessary.

Human good, bleeding heart self-absorbed do-gooders do much more damage than good in their attempts to influence others.

So, when a believer fails to inhale biblical truth and exhale faith in God, he becomes or remains a non-productive branch with no fruit or reward.

Recovery prevents scar tissue from forming on the soul and inhaling biblical truth removes scar tissue from the soul placing it in remission.

Suffering for blessing is in view here and it's not punitive suffering, it's suffering by disciplining ourselves or suffering not from doing anything wrong as Job did nothing wrong; he was upright in the eyes of God and Satan knew it, so Job was pruned by God.

The Christian life isn't so much what we're doing; it's who we're becoming so our ability to concentrate on the Word of God is a barometer of our potential fruit production.

Just as grapes are crushed to be enjoyed, Jesus Christ was crushed at the cross to be experienced by us.

The Lord Jesus Christ was crushed by our sins which is the ultimate in divine good production and in remembrance, we drink from the cup of the cross at Communion, so we now can produce divine good also.

It's certainly not wrong to witness, give or pray but these are external service duties that result from understanding, believing and applying biblical truth but when accomplished in the energy of the flesh sin nature, it's useless and dead to God.

Issue #1 is who is influencing us most; the Holy Spirit or our sin nature and issue #2 is what is in our soul; divine viewpoint biblical truth or human viewpoint religion, legalism or lasciviousness?